

for future generations, not put more money into it.

A DARK COMEDY: CUTTING MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, why are the Republicans cutting Medicare in order to provide a tax break for the privileged few? Here is a quick preview of today's debate on the Republican budget of broken promises. If you like horror movies, stay tuned, because what the Republicans do to Medicare recipients is horrible. If you like mysteries, stay tuned, as we try to unravel the many ways that secret Republican task forces propose to hike the cost of Medicare.

Best of all, if you like comedy, do not tune into the comedy channel, tune in right here. Watch the Republicans try to explain how a cut is not a cut, how, if they propose to double the Medicare deductible, raise the premiums every month, even charge people \$20 a month extra just to be able to see their own doctor, that that is not a cut. They do that with a straight face and call it reform. Horror, mystery, comedy; very dark comedy we will see today as the Republicans cut Medicare in order to provide a tax break for the privileged few.

A HISTORIC VOTE TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Lakewood, OH [Mr. HOKE].

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to do something that is so historic, that is so extraordinary, that is so unique, that has not been done in 26 years. Tomorrow we are going to take a vote, and in fact, we will balance the Federal budget for the first time in 26 years.

What does it mean? What does it mean back in Cleveland? It means safer streets. It means more hope. It means greater opportunity. It means better education. It means more prosperity for our children, for our grandchildren. It means preserving this Nation for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to hear so much bitterness from the other side, and it is a great tragedy of this period in American history that there is so much talent and there is so much intelligence and there is so much good feeling and belief, and yet all that can be offered is so much bitterness and defense of the status quo.

Tomorrow will be the most historic vote of this 104th Congress.

A BUDGET-BUSTING TAX GIVEAWAY PAID FOR BY OUR GRANDMOTHERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget has it backward. They propose cutting Social Security and Medicare benefits by over \$2,500 per recipient through the year 2002 to pay for tax breaks to the privileged few. This means your grandmother's Social Security and Medicare benefits will shrink substantially. Her nursing home expenses will rise if she can even get in.

However, the money saved from these harsh cuts will not go to balance the budget. The money will go to pay for tax breaks to the wealthiest among us: The American billionaires who move to the Caribbean and take their money with them to escape paying taxes here; or the families earning \$200,000 a year, who will be bestowed a \$500 tax credit; or the foreign corporations who do business in this country and earn millions but do not pay a dime in taxes.

If the Republicans were serious, they would not balance the budget on the backs of our seniors to pander to the rich and powerful who can pay for lobbyists in this town. If the Republicans were serious, they would not have a budget-busting \$360 billion tax giveaway paid for by our grandmothers.

REPUBLICANS USE MEDICARE TRUST FUND TO BANKROLL TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say they want to save the Medicare Program, and they promised not to cut Social Security. What they are doing is using the Medicare trust fund to bankroll tax cuts for the wealthy.

Make no mistake about it, cuts in Medicare amount to cuts in Social Security. The typical Medicare beneficiary will spend 40 percent to 50 percent of the cost of living increases in Social Security for increases in the Medicare costs they will incur. Cuts in Medicare amount to cuts in Social Security. Social Security accounts for half or more of the annual incomes for a majority of elderly.

More than 30 percent of older Americans rely on Social Security for 80 percent or more of their income. The typical Medicare beneficiary by 2002 will see 40 to 50 percent of their Social Security COLA eaten up by increases in Medicare cost-sharing and premium.

They are not keeping their promises. Numbers do not lie. Listen to these numbers when you see these relatively well-off young Republican Members of the House tell us that seniors are going to be better off.

PLAYING WITH REALITY WILL CATCH UP WITH THE DEMOCRATS

(Mr. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the 1-minute this morning, and I do not usually make 1-minute speeches. However, I am perplexed by what I have heard. The Democrats have no budget plan of their own, none. They do not have one. They will not cooperate with any attempt to reform Medicare on a bipartisan basis. They stand here and rail about Republican cuts, cuts, cuts. There are not any cuts. To Democrats, restraining the rate of growth is a cut. The American public ought to know that. Such playing with reality will, indeed, catch up with them.

THE SEPARATE ENROLLMENT AND LINE-ITEM VETO ACT OF 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that: First, it be in order to consider in the House a motion to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 4) to grant the power to the President to reduce budget authority, and for other purposes, to strike all after the enacting clause of the Senate bill, and to insert the text of H.R. 2 as passed by this House; second, that the motion be debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be equally divided and controlled among the chairman and ranking minority members of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the Committee on Rules, and third, that the previous question be ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion except for one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. WISE. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I just want to know whether the distinguished chairman needed any more time to explain his request, for which purpose I would happily yield, although I think the gentleman got it all in.

Mr. Speaker, this is a normal process of the House. While I personally oppose the line-item veto bill, the gentleman's request is in order. I will withdraw my reservation of objection and will not object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. CLINGER moves that the House take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 4) to grant the power to the President to reduce budget authority, and for other purposes, strike all after the enacting clause of the Senate bill, and insert the text of H.R. 2, as passed by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr.